

Child Care Center Licensing Outreach – June 13, 2024

Licensed Child Care – Updates and information from the MN Department of Human Services

Representatives from various areas of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health are here to share updates and information related to licensed child care centers.

The webinar is being recorded and will be posted to the Licensed Child Care Centers webpage once it has been transcribed.

Child Care Center licensing and legislation

Licensed child care websites and forms

- [Licensed Child Care Centers webpage](#)
 - Contact information
 - Licensing requirements
 - Forms and documents
 - Guidance
 - Information on outreach events and trainings; recordings and resources
 - Link to [Applying for a Child Care Center License webpage](#)
- [Minnesota Legislature, Office of the Revisor of Statutes](#) - A searchable website of current Minnesota statutes, laws, and rules.

Legislative session updates

Each legislative session provides an opportunity that there may be requirement changes or updates for licensed child care centers.

When updates need to be communicated, the DHS Licensing Division sends out communications via the GovDelivery system. In addition, an implementation plan is developed and shared with licensed child care centers, explaining how changes may apply to them. The 2024 Implementation Plan is being developed and will be sent to authorized agents and the Child Care Center Licensing listserv via a GovDelivery email.

The [Licensed Child Care Centers webpage](#) has a section that shares information on [legislative changes](#) and includes the current implementation plan and an archive of plans from past years for reference.

During the legislative session, [Child Care Aware of Minnesota](#) offers a weekly [Bill Tracker](#) that summarizes the progress of bills and other news related to early care and education and school-age care.

Child Care Regulation Modernization

The Child Care Regulation Modernization project aims to create consistency throughout the state on licensing actions, allow eligible programs shorter inspections for outstanding performance, and modernize outdated licensing language. The project has three components:

- Risk-based tiered violation system (also known as the Weighted Risk System).
- Abbreviated inspections (also known as Key Indicator System).
- Revised licensing standards.

DHS Licensing recently released the [Draft Revised Child Care Center Licensing Standards \(245K\)](#) for public review and comment. Centers are encouraged to read the draft standards and provide feedback to help inform the next draft, which will be submitted to the Legislature in 2025. An online survey is available on the Regulation Modernization website through Monday, July 15, 2024. For more information on upcoming listening sessions, see the [Regulation Modernization website](#).

- Stay in touch: ccregmodernization.dhs@state.mn.us

Systems Transformation

For more information about the Systems Transformation initiative and the Provider Hub, visit the [Systems Transformation website](#).

- Resources for accessing and learning about computers, internet, and technology, including financial resources and grants: [Tech Readiness Resources](#).
- If you have questions or feedback, email the product team at ccproviderhub.dhs@state.mn.us.

Child Care Assistance Program

Start a Registration

- Register with CCAP agency where the child you care for lives to get paid by CCAP.
 - CCAP agency [contact information](#)
- If you serve families who receive child care assistance through different CCAP agencies, you must register with each agency separately.
- You can register with a CCAP agency at any time.
- Each provider type has its own registration and acknowledgement form and requirements:
 - [Licensed Family](#)
 - [Licensed Center](#)
 - [Certified Center](#)

- [Legal Nonlicensed](#)

How much will the Child Care Assistance Program pay me?

- CCAP pays the provider’s charge or the applicable (hourly, daily, weekly) or the CCAP maximum rate, whichever is less.
- CCAP maximum rates differ by county, provider type, and age of children:
 - [Standard Maximum Rate-No Quality Differential](#)
 - [15% Quality Differential Maximum Rates](#)
 - These rates are for providers with certain accreditations or credentials, or three-star Parent Aware rated programs.
 - [20% Quality Differential Maximum Rates](#)
 - These rates are for four-star Parent Aware rated programs.
- If your program charges more than the CCAP maximum rates, the family or other payment sources are responsible for the difference.

How can I learn more about the Child Care Assistance Program?

- [Child Care Assistance Program Provider Guide](#)
- [Child Care Assistance Program Family Guide](#)
- [Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program Provider Billing Tutorial in English](#)
 - [In Spanish](#)
 - [In Somali](#)
 - [In Hmong](#)
- Child Care Assistance Program Provider Orientation course on [Develop](#) – search “child care assistance” in the “course title” field. This course is available in English, Spanish, and Somali.
- [Child Care Assistance Program processes and tasks](#) – Department of Human Services
- Stay up-to-date with Child Care Assistance Program changes by subscribing to our [email updates](#).

Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program

For resources and information relating to the Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program, visit the [Great Start website](#) and their [FAQs page](#) or email CompensationSupport.DHS@state.mn.us.

Parent Aware

To learn more about Parent Aware, or for more information, visit the following links:

- [Parent Aware Program](#) – Minnesota Department of Human Services
- [Parentaware.org](#)
- [Parent Aware Redesign](#) – Minnesota Department of Human Services
- [Fast Facts](#) – Develop
- [Develop](#) website

MDH – Lead testing requirements

New state law: Testing for Lead in Drinking Water in Child Care Settings

In 2023, a new state law - [Minnesota State Statute 145.9273](#) - was passed requiring child care centers to test for lead in drinking water. The law states that by July 1, 2024, licensed or certified child care centers must:

- Create a plan to accurately test for lead in their drinking water. Child care providers can adopt the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) model plan from the [Technical Guidance for Minnesota’s School and Child Care Facilities](#), or create their own plan.
- Begin testing all sources of water that may be consumed by children (used in cooking or directly by drinking) at least once every five years.
- Discontinue use of any sources of water used for consumption that have a level of lead 5 parts per billion (ppb) or higher until the hazard has been remediated and verified by a retest to be below 5 ppb.
- Within 30 days of receipt of results, make results of testing available to the public and notify families that the information is available.
- Report test results and remediation activities to MDH by July 1 of each year. Reporting templates will be posted when MDH is ready to accept submissions.

As of May 2024, lead in drinking water testing, remediation, and reporting for child cares does not impact licensing. Family child care providers aren’t required by the statute to test their drinking water for lead, however it is recommended.

To help meet these requirements, MDH has a voluntary, free lead in drinking water testing program that all licensed child care providers can apply for. This program provides participants with training, sample kits, and certified laboratory analysis for lead in drinking water. To apply for the program, visit the [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Grant](#) webpage.

To learn more, visit the [Drinking Water in Schools, Child Care and Head Start Programs](#) webpage. If you have any questions, please email HEALTH.WIIN_Grant@state.mn.us or call 651-201-4700. To stay up-to-date on new information, join our [Lead Testing in Drinking Water email list](#).

DHS Background Studies Division

[MN DHS Background Studies main webpage](#)

- BGS phone number (available Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.): 651-431-6620
- For child care CANR related questions, email dhs.backgroundcc@state.mn.us
- For NETStudy 2.0 background study related questions or technical assistance, email dhs.netstudy2@state.mn.us

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) will be established in July 2024 and fully staffed by July 2025. For more information on the background, timeline, and related resources, visit the [DCYF webpage](#).

You can also [subscribe to the DCYF Implementation Office newsletter](#) to receive email updates.

Additional opportunities for information and questions

Information on upcoming Child Care Center Licensing Unit events and revised resources for licensed child care centers can be found on the [Licensed Child Care Centers webpage](#).

Keeping Kids Safe guide has been updated

A cross-agency effort went into updating the emergency planning guide, Keeping Kids Safe. This guide outlines best practices for caregivers of all types to keep children safe as well as key considerations that providers should take when planning for emergencies when children are present.

[Keeping Kids Safe guide \(DHS-7414\)](#)

Licensed Child Care Center E-Learning videos

This series of videos presents a high-level overview for individuals applying for a child care center license and important details to consider prior to submitting the license application. The key objective of this series of videos is providing support and information that allow the applicant to understand what licensed child care entails, how to ensure compliance with licensing requirements, and things to consider in planning for the operation of a child care center as a small business. Topics include defining licensed child care in Minnesota, key considerations that contribute to operating a successful child care center business, policies and procedures for licensed child care centers, staffing requirements for licensed child care centers, and more.

- [Defining Licensed Child Care in Minnesota](#)
- [Business of Licensed Child Care Centers](#)
- [Facility](#)
- [Staffing Requirements](#)
- [Policies and Procedures](#)

Early Childhood Connector newsletter subscription

[Sign up to receive communications from the Early Childhood Connector](#), a cross-agency effort to provide updates to child care providers and early educators in Minnesota. By signing up, you can expect to receive a quarterly newsletter highlighting resources, supports and updates on child care and early education from the Minnesota Children’s Cabinet and Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services. Content will be tailored to licensed and nonlicensed child care, Head Start, and prekindergarten programs. In addition to the Early Childhood Connector newsletter, occasional updates will be sent.

Early Childhood Connector calls

The Minnesota Children’s Cabinet and the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services offer quarterly Early Childhood Connector provider calls to child care providers and early educators in Minnesota. The purpose of Connector Calls is to answer clarifying questions related to legislation, licensing, programs, grants and more from providers and improve state communications. Calls are recorded and available on the [Early Childhood Connector webpage](#).

Educators of all types are invited to these calls. We welcome questions from licensed programs, certified centers, exempt programs, legally nonlicensed providers, Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers, and individuals interested in starting a child care business.

[Learn more about Early Childhood Connector calls, including upcoming dates, and submit your questions here.](#)

Next call: Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. Central Time | [WebEx meeting link](#) (registration is not required)

Thank you for your time and attention.

The content in this handout is current as of the date presented; the DHS reserves the right to update or revise as applicable.